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Questions relating to information

Letter dated 25 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning restriction of the activities of the Russian information media in Ukraine (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as a General Assembly document under item 55 of the agenda of the current session.

(*Signed*) Petr **Iliichev**
Permanent Representative a.i. of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 25 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative a.i. of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning restriction of the activities of the Russian information media in Ukraine

16 April 2014

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is gravely concerned about the situation in respect of restriction of the activities of the Russian information media and instances of political censorship in Ukraine.

In the territory of Ukraine the broadcasting of Russian television channels has been suspended, the Russian-language versions of the official Internet sites of Ukrainian state bodies have been blocked, Russian journalists are being subjected to psychological and physical pressure, and the websites of Russian information media which are covering the situation in Ukraine are being hacked.

The national television and radio broadcasting council of Ukraine has proposed to the supreme administrative court of Ukraine that the programmes of Russian television channels should be deemed in violation of the laws of Ukraine and of the 1989 European Convention on Transfrontier Television. By decision of the Kiev district administrative court, the broadcasting of television channels such as *Rossiya, Pervy kanal, Rossiya-24* and *Telekompaniya NTV* has been suspended. The television *channels RTR-Planeta, Pervy kanal, Vsemirnaya set* and *NTV-Mir* have been removed from the cable television broadcasting network in Ukraine.

Cases are being reported of Russian journalists being impeded from entering the territory of Ukraine, which represents a gross violation of democratic freedoms and of the rights of Ukrainian nationals to information.

Such actions are in disregard of the provisions of such international instruments as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of 1966, the European Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, of 1950, the Declaration on mass communication media and human rights, of 1970, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of 1948, pursuant to which everyone has the right to the freedom to seek, receive and impart information.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation believes that further violation of the rights of Russian journalists and restriction of the activities of the Russian information media in Ukraine cannot be tolerated and that the international community, and in particular the representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international organizations concerned with issues of freedom of the information media, should finally react appropriately to these violations.